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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

RE APPLICATION OF :

MITSUYOSHI OKUDA, ET AL.

: ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION

SERIAL NO: 10/820,714 :

FILED: APRIL 9, 2004 :

FOR: ALKALINE PROTEASE :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.